

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Klaus Bruchmann ) PATENT APPLICATION  
 Serial No.: 10/031,941 ) BRU6144P0060US  
 International ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Designated  
 Filing Date: July 20, 2000 ) Examiner: Not Yet Designated  
 For: SWITCHING SYSTEM WITH A ) Confirmation No. 8744  
 COMBINED SWITCHING AND )  
 BLOCKING DEVICE )  
 (As Amended) )

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

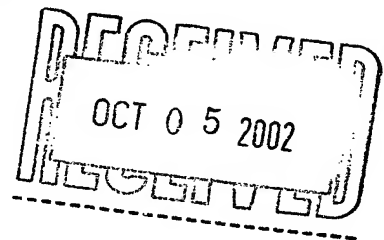
Sir:

Applicant has the following seven (7) co-pending U.S. patent applications  
 relating to fuses:

1. 09/508,953
2. 09/600,097
3. 10/031,830
4. 10/031,831
5. 10/031,941
6. 10/031,943
7. U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP/00/11041 with an international filing date of November 8, 2000 and U.S. stage initial submission date by Express Mail of May 23, 2002.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the art identified on the attached form  
 PTO/S/08A and other matters discussed below may be helpful to the Patent Office in  
 its examination of the application identified above.

A copy of each of the patent documents identified on Form PTO/SB/08A is  
 enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.



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The documents disclosed in the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A were cited in the corresponding International Search Report for PCT/EP00/06937 (copy enclosed).

The following comments are directed to the non-English language documents listed on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A.

**DE 31 19 181 C1**

The German patent document DE 31 19181 C1 discloses a fuse holding unit 1 with a casing 2, which comprises a channel 3 for a fuse link 4. For contacting a first contact element of the fuse link, a first contact 8 is provided, whereas a second contact for the second contact element 12 of the fuse link is provided by a moveable contact 13, being arranged at a pivoting arm 15. By the specific arrangement of the disclosed device, it shall be secured so that the moveable contact 13 automatically moves away in case of an overcurrent, as can be seen especially in FIGS. 2 and 3, so that in case the fuse link is taken out of the device, it should be not possible that both contacts 8 and 13 are reachable or contactable from outside.

**DE 297 14 134 U1**

The German Utility Model DE 297 14 134 U1 discloses a fused switch unit with a holder 6 for a fuse link 8, which can be inserted into a housing of the fused switch unit. The unit comprises a switch 11, which is operable manually, and further comprises a sliding locker element 40 being actuated by a switch element 11 in a way that the fuse holder 6 can be only taken out of the housing when the switch 11

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is in an off-position, as can be seen in FIG. 3, whereas in an on-position the holder 11 is locked, as can be seen in FIG. 1.

**DE 34 47 942 A1**

The German patent application DE 34 47 941 A1 discloses a fused switch unit 10 with a housing 11 and a switching rocker 13, in which a holder 18 for a fuse link 75 is insertable. The housing 2, 3, or 11 respectively comprises a locking device in the form of a detent pawl 87 for locking or arresting the switching rocker. When the holder 18 for the fuse link 75 is inserted completely into the switching rocker, the detent pawl 87 is pushed outside against the force of a spring 88 and is pushed out of the arresting or locking position, as can be seen in FIG. 3, so that the switching rocker can be rotated as can be seen in FIG. 2.

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The Patent and Trademark Office Examiner is requested to review the art and determine the extent of the materiality of the disclosures thereof with respect to the patentability of the subject invention. It is expected that the Patent and Trademark Office Examiner will independently conduct a complete search for relevant prior art.

No inference should be drawn and no representation is made or intended: (a) that a search has been made, or if made, was complete; (b) that the art on the attached list presents a comprehensive investigation of the prior art; or (c) that no more pertinent art than that listed is in existence. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)]

Citation of any art herein is not to be construed as an admission: (a) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, pertinent to the instant invention, or equivalent to the instant invention; (b) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant in the instant patent application; (c) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b); and/or (d) that the art disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention and application. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g).]

No inference should be drawn that the discussion of any art herein is a discussion of each and every feature disclosed therein.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosures of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art cited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on *May 31*, 2002.

  
Paul M. Odell

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